

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2599

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER ON NUMBER OF ISSUES

1. CARLOS ELVIRA GONZALES (KNOWN AS ELVIRA), MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) AND HEAD OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSION, LUNCED 26 AUGUST WITH A QUAI OFFICIAL. WHAT FOLLOWS IS SUMMARY OF ELVIRA'S STATEMENTS AS REPORTED TO LABATT BY THE QUAI OFFICIAL:

(A) PCE ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS ON PRACTICALLY EVERY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE FOLLOWS CLOSELY THOSE OF PCI (ITALY). PCE LEADERS HOLD BERLINGUER OF PCI IN HIGHEST ADMIRATION.

(B) WHEN TOLD THAT BERLINGUER HAD TOLD THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN ROME THAT THE PCI WOULD CONTINUE ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO, ELVIRA AGREED WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS THAT THIS WAS A CORRECT POLICY AND THAT

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PCE WILL FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE

AMERICAN BASES IN SPAIN.

(C) THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE PCP (PORTUGAL) IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF CUNHAL'S DISREGARD FOR SOME BASIC DEMOCRATIC RULES AND THIS SHOULD BE A LESSON TO MANY PEOPLE. HE ADDED, "CUNHAL HAS LIVED TOO LONG IN MOSCOW AND THIS IS ENOUGH TO TURN ONE INTO AN IDIOT." (THE FRENCH WORD USED FOR IDIOT WAS OFF COLOR BUT MORE DESCRIPTIVE.)

(D) ALTHOUGH NOTHING WILL COME OUT OF SOARES' PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES IN PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY, THE IDEA WAS NOT WITHOUT MERIT. IF SUCH A MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE THE PCF-PCP WOULD FIND THEMSELVES ALONE ON ONE SIDE WITH THE REST LINED UP AGAINST THEM.

(E) REGARDLESS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IS BECOMING A HANDICAP FOR SPAIN BECAUSE IT HAS MONOPOLIZED WORLD PUBLIC ATTENTION AND IS THEREFORE DEPRIVING THE VARIOUS RESISTANCE GROUPS IN SPAIN OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND MORAL SUPPORT.

(F) THE PCE NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF EVERY OTHER GROUP IN SPAIN AND THEREFORE IT IS NOT ABOUT TO ASSERT CLAIMS OF LEADERSHIP WHICH WOULD ANTAGONIZE THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES. THE PCE NEEDS ALSO A BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

(G) THE SPANISH REGIME IS PERHAPS THE ONLY ONE WHICH RECEIVED UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION IN THE ILO. IT IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT THE AFL-CIO NEVER WAVERED IN ITS REJECTION OF FRANCO.

(H) THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ETUC (EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION) AND NOT IN ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING WFTU.

(I) IT WOULD BE LUDICROUS IN THIS DAY AND AGE TO SPEAK OF ONE MODEL OF SOCIALISM APPLICABLE TO ALL
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COUNTRIES. SPANISH SOCIALISM WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF FRANCE, ITALY OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND LEAST OF ALL WILL BEAR ANY SIMILARITY TO THE EAST EUROPEAN REGIMES.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE SINCERITY OF EL VIRA'S STATEMENTS, WE HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WERE REPORTED CORRECTLY BY HIS INTERLOCUTOR.

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